IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, et al.

Debtors.¹

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

PROMESA Title III

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Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS 2023 JUN 7 PM3:43 (Jointly Administered)

PROMESA Title III

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO OBJECTION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY'S PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT

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The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747). (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations.)

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO COMES NOW ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO, as party in interest pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1109, appearing *pro se* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1654, and respectfully requests that the Court deny the confirmation of the Modified Second Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, ECF No. 3296 ("Plan of Adjustment").

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. I, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO, am a party in interest in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's ("PREPA") Title III Bankruptcy. See 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).
- 2. I, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO, am a resident of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. I am 55 (fifty five) years old and live alone. I am a retiree of the Puerto Rico Electricity Power Authority, where I worked until 2018 as a Lineman. I suffer from hypertension tendonitis, and osteoarthritis. These conditions force me to visit various specialists in order to deal with my conditions. I must take 8 different types of medication for all these conditions. I live alone in a rented house in Cabo Rojo, about two and a half hours away from the Capital city of San Juan, and both my son and daughter live abroad so are unable to take care of me.
- 3. As a Lineman I had to work with live wires, take care of any problems within five different municipalities Hormigueros, Cabo Rojo, San Geman, Sabana Grande, and Lajas-, had to deal with the vegetation interfering with distribution lines, put up posts for distribution lines, and any other electric grid need within said municipalities. While on duty, I suffered multiple accidents. For example, changing a fuse, the cylinder the fuse goes in fell and hit me in the face for which I received medical attention. On a Halloween night, I was wounded when someone threw a rock at me, splitting my lip. This landed me in the emergency room with 13 stitches.

- 4. The question of who is a "party in interest" should be answered on a case-by-case basis. The definition is non-exhaustive. It generally refers to anyone with a financial stake or significant legal or practical stake in the outcome of bankruptcy. See, for example, Savage & Assocs.
 P.C. v. K&L Gates LLP (In re Teligent, Inc.), 640 F.3d 53 (2d Cir. 2011). That should mean anyone who will be significantly impacted.
- 5. The Plan of Adjustment proposes to impose a Legacy Charge on the electric bills of residential and commercial customers for the next 35 years or more, which will de facto increase my cost of living as well as that of all of products and services in Puerto Rico.
- 6. In addition to the financial side effects of the rate increases, as a PREPA retiree, the Plan of Adjustment will reduce my pension benefits by eliminating Cost of Living Adjustments, pursuant to the Pension Claim treatment of Class 3. This means that while the Plan will increase the cost of living in Puerto Rico, my pension will not be adjusted accordingly. Therefore, my pension will in reality suffer an ever-increasing reduction equivalent to the increase in the cost of living through time. This will leave me increasingly vulnerable in my old age.
- 7. Therefore, **I, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO**, am a party in interest that "may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter." 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

8. For over a decade, Puerto Rico's economy has been in trouble and, by 2016, its massive debt became unsustainable. On June 30, 2016, PROMESA was signed into law. 48 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. It created Title III to allow the territory access to bankruptcy relief for its instrumentalities. On July 2, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico ("Oversight Board") initiated a Title III case for PREPA. On December 16,

2022, the Oversight Board filed the first *Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*. This has been amended 3 times. The current version of the Plan of Adjustment was filed on March 1, 2023.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

- 9. Section 314 of PROMESA has the requirements for the confirmation of a Plan of Adjustment. 48 U.S.C. § 2174(b).
 - The Title III court shall confirm a plan of adjustment so long as certain requirements are met, including that: the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan; . . . any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval; . . . [and] the plan is feasible. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Federacion de Maestros de P.R., Inc. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.), 32 F.4th 67, 76 (1st Cir. 2022)(citation omitted).
- 10. The Plan of Adjustment is not feasible for the reasons stated in the expert declarations of Mr. Tom Sanzillo, ECF No. 3416; Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, ECF No. 3417, Mr. Agustín Irizarry, ECF No. 3414.
- 11. "Under PROMESA, a plan of adjustment must be supported by financial projections that are 'reasonable and demonstrate a probability that the debtor will be able to satisfy its obligations under the Plan." In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd., 637 B.R. 223, 302-03 (D.P.R. 2022).
- 12. This means asking: "Is it likely that the debtor, after the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment, will be able to sustainably provide basic municipal services to the citizens of the debtor and to meet the obligations contemplated in the Plan without the significant probability of a default?" <u>Id.</u>
- 13. The Plan of Adjustment will affect Puerto Rico's economy and ratepayers, such as myself, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO. Therefore, PREPA will not be able to generate enough revenue and comply with its obligations to creditors or to the people of Puerto Rico, myself

included. Because of this, the Plan of Adjustment is not feasible.

CONCLUSION

14. In conclusion, this Court should not confirm the Plan of Adjustment because it does not meet

the requirements under PROMESA. Additionally, the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment

would cause great prejudice to me, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO, and to the people of

Puerto Rico.

15. PREPA's restructuring is very important, because electric power is necessary both for

consumers and businesses alike. It is the driving force of Puerto Rico's economy. If

PREPA's restructuring becomes too burdensome on the people and businesses of Puerto

Rico, it will affect any possibility of economic growth and development.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, I, ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO, respectfully requests that the Court take notice of the above stated and deny the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this same date I conventionally filed the foregoing with

the Clerk of the Court. A copy of this document will be emailed to all case participants.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 7th day of June 2023.

ELLIOT SEGARRA TORO,

Pro se

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